

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BOMBAY 01472 190941Z

20/46

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 /042 W

----- 096153

R 180830Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5478

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS BOMBAY 1472

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECTION TEXT)

DEPARTMENT PASS FAA FS50 FROM GOUTIERE

BEIRUT FOR RCAA AND FAA

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IN

SUBJ: PRELIMINARY REPORT AIR FRANCE BOEING 747 ACCIDENT AT
SANTA CRUZ AIRPORT, BOMBAY, INDIA

THE APPARENT CAUSE IS AS FOLLOWS: AIR FRANCE REJECTED TAKEOFF
DUE TO TWO BLOWN TIRES; ONE JUST PRIOR TO TAKEOFF WHICH
THE CAPTAIN WAS UNAWARE OF, THE SECOND AT ABOUT 100 KNOTS.
THE TIRES WERE NOS. 11 AND 12 RESPECTIVELY ON THE RIGHT
BODY GEAR. BOTH WHEELS SHED THEIR TIRES WHILE AIRCRAFT WAS
ACCELERATING TO VI SPEED OF 139 KNOTS. DURING THE REJECTION
NO.11 WHEEL GROUND TO ABOUT AN INCH ON ONE SIDE, BOTH
EQUALIZER RODS ALSO SCRAPPED FLAT. DRAG OF METAL WHEELS ON
THE PAVED SURFACE CAUSED INTENSE HEAT. WHEN FLIGHT 193
STOPPED AT INTERSECTION OF RUNAWAY 27 AND TAXIWAY C NEAR
THE TERMINAL FIRE THEN DEVELOPED QUITE RAPIDLY AT THE
WHEEL TROLLY. ACCORDING TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT SIX FIRE
FIGHTING VEHICLES WERE SENT TO THE AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATELY.
ONE WAS PARKED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF NO. 4 ENGINE AND
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BOMBAY 01472 190941Z

CONTAINED THE ONLY DRY CHEMICAL COMPOUND USUALLY USED FOR

FIRES OF THIS NATURE. ONE TRUCK WAS AFT OF THE RIGHT WING TIP AND ONE TOWARD THE NOSE SECTION ABOUT 50 FT. AWAY. THE OTHER THREE VEHICLES WERE DEPLOYED ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE PLANE IN APPROXIMATELY SAME MANNER. THE FOREMAN IN THE VEHICLE WITH THE DRY CHEMICAL SAID ALL AIRCRAFT ENGINES CONTINUED RUNNING AND FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET CLOSER TO THE FIRE TO DO ANY GOOD. HE FIRST USED THE DRY CHEMICAL BUT IT WAS SUCKED IN BY THE ENGINES AND BLOWN AWAY. THE SAME RESULTS OCCURED WITH THE SECOND TRUCK. THE OTHER FIRE ENGINES JUST STOOD BY AND WERE NOT USED AT THIS TIME. WITHIN A FEW MINUTES THE FIRE HAD INTENSIFIED AND ENVELOPED TIRES 9 AND 10 WITH FLAMES AND REACHING THE LOWER WING PANELS IN THE WHEEL WELL AREA. ACCORDING TO STATEMENTS THE CAPTAIN WAS UNAWARE OF WHAT WAS OCCURING OUTSIDE. THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TOWER AND THE COCKPIT. EVIDENTLY THE TOWER WAS TALKING TO BOTH THE AIRCRAFT AND THE FIRE STATION ON THE SAME FREQUENCY AS SHOWN ON THE TAPES. A BRITISH AIRWAYS GROUND ENGINEER WHO WAS ATTENDING A QUANTAS PLANE SAW THE 747 IN DISTRESS ON THE RUNWAY WITH GEAR ON FIRE. HE HAD HIS HEAD SET WITH HIM. THIS HE PLUGGED INTO THE RECEPTACLE OF THE 747 NEAR THE NOSE GEAR. THE MECHANIC INFORMED THE COCKPIT OF THE FIRE. HE STATES THE PILOT ACKNOWLEDGED QUITE NONCHALANTLY AND SAID HE WOULD DECLARE AN EMERGENCY. THE MECHANIC ALSO STATES THE FIRST FIRE TRUCK WAS NOT SUCCEEDING WITH THE DC COMPOUND THAT IT WAS BLOWN AWAY BY THE ENGINES. CAPTAIN WAS STILL CONFUSED BY THE TOWER TELLING HIM HE HAD AN ENGINE FIRE, BUT NOT UNTIL THE CABIN INFLIGHT MANAGER RAN TO THE COCKPIT AND INFORMED THE SKIPPER THAT THERE WAS ACTUALLY A FIRE UNDER RIGHT WING. TIME IN THIS EPISODE IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE. IT IS NOW THAT THE PILOT ELECTED TO GO THROUGH THE EVACUATION DRILL. HE DID NOT FOLLOW IT CORRECTLY. THE FIRST ITEM WAS TO SHUTDOWN ENGINES TWO AND THREE. THIS HE DID NOT DO. FURTHER IN THE CHECKLIST ALL FOUR START LEVERS ARE TO BE CUTOFF. THIS IS WHEN ENGINES WERE FINALLY SHUTDOWN AND PASSENGERS STARTED TO EVACUATE. THE PRESENCE OF MIND OF ONE OF AIR FRANCE TRAFFIC AGENTS WHEN HE FIRST SAW THE PLANE IN TROUBLE RUSHED AN AIR INDIA STEPS TO THE NO. 1 LEFT DOOR. MANY PASSENGERS ESCAPED BY THIS MEANS. WHEN THE ENGINES

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BOMBAY 01472 190941Z

WERE SHUTDOWN THE THREE FIRE TRUCKS ON THE LEFT SIDE DEPLOYED THEIR FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEMS AND COVERED THE AREA WITH FOAM AND WATER WHERE PASSENGERS WERE COMING DOWN. THIS CAUSED PASSENGERS TO SLIP AND SLIDE AS THEY RUSHED FROM THE BURNING PLANE. ALL FOUR CHUTES WORKED NORMAL. THE EVACUATION WAS WELL CONDUCTED BY CABIN CREW AND TOOK BETWEEN THREE TO FOUR MINUTES, WHICH INCLUDED 374 PASSENGERS AND 18 CREW. THE COCKPIT CREW WERE LAST TO

DEPLANE. THEY WERE FORCED TO USE THE COCKPIT HATCH AND
JUMP WITH THE INERTIA REELS. BY THIS TIME THE WHOLE
AIRCRAFT WAS ENVELOPED IN FLAMES AND THE FUSELAGE WAS
SETTLING ON TO ITS TAIL AREA.

AIR FRANCE FLIGHT 193 ORIGINATED IN HONG KONG, DESTINATION
PARIS WITH INTERMEDIATE STOPS BOMBAY, TEHRAN, TEL AVIV.
AIRCRAFT IN USE WAS BOEING 707, U.S. REGISTERED N28888,
LEASED FROM A WILMINGTON TRUST CO. COCKPIT CREW MEMBERS
WERE PROPERLY CERTIFIED AS PER FAA REGULATIONS. THERE WERE
NO MALFUNCTIONS REPORTED BY THE FLIGHT ENGINEER AND ALL
SYSTEMS WERE OPERATING NORMALLY. THE TIRES IN QUESTION
HAD ONE RETREAD AND SINCE JUNE 1 HAD 15 LANDINGS.
BANE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER REPORTS, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOMBAY01472
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750213-0875
From: BOMBAY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750636/aaaabglr.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 FEB 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <09 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRELIMINARY REPORT AIR FRANCE BOEING 747 ACCIDENT AT SANTA CRUZ AIRPORT, BOMBAY, INDIA
TAGS: EAIR, IN, AIR FRANCE, BRITISH AIRWAYS, QUANTAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006